
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1652

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Grant, Kretz, Hailey, Blake, Pearson, McCoy, B. Sullivan and Kristiansen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/15/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to wildfire prevention and protection; creating new
2 sections; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The wildfire prevention and protection work
5 group is established. The work group consists of the following
6 members:

7 (1) Two members, or the appointee's designee, representing counties
8 that contain significant forest land, grazing land, or both, at least
9 one each from eastern and western Washington, selected by the governor
10 in consultation with a statewide association representing the interests
11 of counties;

12 (2) A member, or the appointee's designee, representing a city that
13 contains significant forest land, grazing land, or both, selected by
14 the governor in consultation with a statewide association representing
15 the interests of cities;

16 (3) Three members, or the appointee's designee, representing fire
17 districts that contain significant forest land, grazing land, or both,
18 at least one each from eastern and western Washington, selected by the

- 1 state fire marshal in consultation with a statewide association
2 representing the interests of fire commissioners;
- 3 (4) Two members, or the appointee's designee, representing
4 environmental protection organizations, selected by the executive
5 director of the Washington state conservation commission;
- 6 (5) A member, or the appointee's designee, representing industrial
7 forest landowners, selected by the governor in consultation with a
8 statewide association representing the interests of industrial
9 landowners;
- 10 (6) A member, or the appointee's designee, representing small
11 forest landowners, selected by the governor in consultation with a
12 statewide association representing the interests of small forest
13 landowners;
- 14 (7) A member, or the appointee's designee, representing the home
15 building industry, selected by the governor in consultation with a
16 statewide association representing the interests of the home building
17 industry;
- 18 (8) A member, or the appointee's designee, representing realtors,
19 selected by the governor in consultation with a statewide association
20 representing the interests of realtors;
- 21 (9) One representative, or the appointee's designee, of agriculture
22 selected by the director of the department of agriculture in
23 consultation with a statewide association representing the interests of
24 farmers;
- 25 (10) One contract logger, or the appointee's designee, selected by
26 the governor in consultation with a statewide association representing
27 the interests of contract loggers;
- 28 (11) One person, or the appointee's designee, selected by the
29 director of the department of agriculture in consultation with a
30 statewide association representing the interests of cattlemen;
- 31 (12) One person, or the appointee's designee, from the Washington
32 state patrol's fire protection program selected by the state fire
33 marshal;
- 34 (13) One representative of fire chiefs, or the appointee's
35 designee, selected by the state fire marshal, in consultation with a
36 statewide association representing the interests of fire chiefs;
- 37 (14) One retired professional forester, or the appointee's

1 designee, selected by the governor in consultation with an association
2 representing the interests of professional foresters;

3 (15) Two forest landowners with large forest lands, or the
4 appointee's designee, one from east of the crest of the Cascade
5 mountains and one from west of the crest of the Cascade mountains,
6 selected by the governor;

7 (16) The insurance commissioner, or the insurance commissioner's
8 designee;

9 (17) A member representing the Washington state building code
10 council, or the appointee's designee, selected by the chair of the
11 council; and

12 (18) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's
13 designee.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The wildfire prevention and protection
15 work group created in section 1 of this act shall review existing fire
16 studies conducted by or for the department of natural resources, the
17 joint legislative audit and review committee, and other organizations.
18 The work group shall review the following issues:

19 (a) Whether the forest fire protection assessment rate provides
20 sufficient funding towards the protection of public and private lands
21 from wildfires;

22 (b) Whether the statutory limitations on the purposes for which
23 moneys collected through the forest fire protection assessment and from
24 the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account may be
25 expended are warranted;

26 (c) Whether the term "forest land," as set forth in RCW 76.04.005,
27 properly defines the scope of land on which the forest fire protection
28 assessment should be assessed;

29 (d) Whether forest fire protection assessments are currently being
30 collected from all lands on which the department of natural resources
31 has the duty to impose such assessments;

32 (e) Whether the adoption of elements from wildfire programs of
33 other western states would improve wildfire protection and suppression
34 in Washington state;

35 (f) Whether the department of natural resources' authority to
36 protect forest land should include the authority to protect structures;

1 (g) Whether improvements and efficiencies in the department of
2 natural resources' fire protection activities would impact fire
3 suppression activities and expenses;

4 (h) Whether state and local building codes adequately address the
5 dangers posed by development in areas subject to wildfires;

6 (i) Whether local government land use regulations, infrastructure
7 planning, community wildlife prevention programs, incentive programs,
8 and state advisory and assistance programs adequately address the
9 dangers posed by development in areas subject to wildfires; and

10 (j) Whether insurance rates in Washington state reflect the dangers
11 posed by development in areas subject to wildfires.

12 (2) Members of the forest fire prevention and protection work group
13 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and
14 43.03.060.

15 (3) The work group must be staffed by the department of natural
16 resources.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The wildfire prevention and protection work
18 group shall report its findings and recommendations in the form of
19 draft legislation to the legislature by December 1, 2007.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
21 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
22 June 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
23 void.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires July 1, 2008.

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